With Dr Lawton's Compliments

EDITOR
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BOROUGH OF POOLE.

REPORTS

OF

The Medical Officer of Health

TO THE

URBAN SANITARY AUTHORITY

AND TO THE

POOLE PORT SANITARY AUTHORITY

For the Year ending Dec. 31st, 1898.

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POOLE:

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To the Poole Urban Sanitary Authority.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Report of the health of the Poole Urban Sanitary District for the year ending December 31st, 1898.

Population. Assuming that the rate of increase in the decade 1881—1891 still continues, I estimate the population of the district to be 18,214 to the middle of the year, and 18,410 to the end of the year. The Borough Surveyor calculating on the number of inhabited houses, estimates the population to be 19,500.

Births. The number of Births registered during the year was 273 males and 253 females, making a total of 526. Hence the Birth-rate was 28·76 per 1000. There was an increase of 15 as compared with 1897.

Deaths. The number of Deaths registered during the year was 138 males and 140 females, making a total of 278. Hence the death-rate was 15·31 per 1000. There was an increase of only one as compared with 1897. Calculating on the Borough Surveyor's estimate, the death rate would be 14·25 per 1000.

The Infantile death rate was 14·53 per 100.

The Zymotic death rate was 0·43 per 1000.

The monthly returns of Births and Deaths were as follows :—

Month.	*Births.*	*Deaths.*
January ..	43 ..	30
February ..	44 ..	25
March ..	40 ..	26
April ..	41 ..	21
May	40 ..	25
June	56 ..	23
July	54 ..	32
August ..	39 ..	20
September ..	42 ..	22
October ..	46 ..	21
November ..	41 ..	17
December ..	40 ..	17

The various Districts, Parishes and Hospitals were credited with the following number of Deaths :—

St. James', Poole, West side of High St., &c.	54
,, ,, East ,, ,,	59
Poole Harbour	3
Longfleet	49
Parkstone	69
Hamworthy	12
Union Workhouse	19
Fever Hospital	0
Cornelia Hospital	13

The ages at which death occurred were :—

Under 1 year	76
Between 1 and 5 years	29
,, 5 ,, 15 ,, ...	8
,, 15 ,, 25 ,, ...	13
,, 25 ,, 65 ,, ...	83
Over 65 years	69

Of those over 65 years, 24 were between 80 and 90 years, and one over 90.

According to the returns forwarded me, the deaths registered were credited as follows :—

	Total.	*Under five years.*	*Over five years.*
Small Pox	none		
Scarlet Fever ..	none		
Diphtheria	3	2	1
Croup (membranous) ..	2	2	0
Typhus Fever ..	none		
Typhoid Fever ..	none		
Continued Fever ..	none		
Puerperal Fever ..	none		
Cholera	none		
Erysipelas	1	1	0
Measles	none		
Whooping Cough ..	2	2	0
Diarrhœa and Dysentery	6	6	0
Rheumatic Fever ..	none		
Ague	none		
Phthisis	24	5	19
Bronchitis, Pneumonia, &c.	43	18	25
Heart Disease ..	14	1	13
Injuries	10	2	8
All other Diseases ..	167	66	107

In reviewing the Health History of the District for the past year, it will be well, according to my usual custom, to follow the foregoing analysis.

Diphtheria caused three deaths, viz :—

1—Male, aged 2 years, Taylor's Buildings, Poole, February 6th.
2—Female, aged 5 years, South Road, Poole, March 19th.
3—Female, aged 2 years, St. Mary's Home, Parkstone, May 15th.

Membranous Croup caused two deaths, viz :—

1—Male, aged 4 years, Church Street, Parkstone, February 6th.
2—Male, aged 3 years, Ashley Road, Longfleet, July 22nd.

Erysipelas caused one death, viz :—

1—Female, aged 6 months, Gordon Buildings, Parkstone, November 5th.

Whooping Cough caused two deaths, viz :—

1—Female, aged 21 months, New Street, Poole, May 7th.
2—Male, aged 4 months, Nile Row, Poole, October 1st.

Diarrhœa caused six deaths, viz :—

1—Female, aged 1 year, Avenue Place, Poole, August 18th.
2—Female, aged 1 month, Towngate Street, Poole, August 23rd.
3—Female, aged 1½ years, West Street, Poole, September 11th.
4—Female, aged 3 months, Hamworthy, September 19th.
5—Male, aged 3 months, Florence Road, Parkstone, September 24th.
6—Male, aged 1 month, Ashley Road, Parkstone, October 19th.

Phthisis caused 24 deaths, giving a death rate of 1·31 per 1000. This number is one more than in 1897 and five more than in 1896.

Bronchitis, Pneumonia, Pleurisy, &c., caused 43 deaths.

Heart Disease caused 14 deaths.

Injuries caused 10 deaths. Four of these were cases of drowning (two accidental, one suicidal and one found drowned); three were accidental falls; two were cases of burning; one was a railway accident.

Infectious Diseases Notification Act.—Under this Act 63 certificates notifying 61 cases were received from Medical Practitioners and 29 notices from householders or relatives of persons affected with notifiable infectious diseases.

The following is an Analysis of Localities and Diseases :—

Month.	Locality.	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Erysipelas	Typhoid Fever	Membranous Croup	Puerperal Fever	Total
January ..	Poole ..	1	..	1	..	..	..	4
	Parkstone ..	1	1	..	..	..	..	
February ..	Poole ..	1	..	1	..	..	..	5
	Parkstone ..	..	..	1	..	1	..	
	Longfleet ..	..	..	1	..	..	..	
March ..	Poole ..	..	1	1	..	..	..	10
	Parkstone ..	1	2	..	..	..	..	
	Longfleet ..	..	4	1	..	..	..	
April	Poole ..	..	1	..	..	..	..	3
	Parkstone ..	1	..	..	..	..	1	
May	Parkstone ..	..	3	..	..	..	..	3
June	Poole ..	..	3	1	1	..	..	5
July	Poole ..	..	2	1	..	..	..	8
	Parkstone ..	1	1	1	..	..	..	
	Longfleet ..	..	..	1	..	1	..	
August ..	Poole ..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
September ..	Poole ..	..	2	1	..	..	..	8
	Parkstone ..	1	2	..	1	..	..	
	Longfleet ..	..	..	1	..	..	..	
October ..	Poole ..	..	1	..	..	..	..	4
	Parkstone ..	..	1	1	..	..	..	
	Longfleet ..	..	..	1	..	..	..	
November ..	Poole ..	..	..	2	..	..	..	7
	Parkstone ..	1	1	1	..	..	..	
	Longfleet ..	..	1	1	..	..	..	
December ..	Poole ..	1	..	1	..	..	..	3
	Longfleet ..	..	..	1	..	..	..	
		9	26	21	2	2	1	61
	Poole ..	3	10	10	1	..	..	24
	Parkstone ..	6	11	4	1	1	1	24
	Longfleet ..	..	5	7	..	1	..	13
	Hamworthy ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
		9	26	21	2	2	1	61

Summary of Notifications received during the years 1893—1898.

Disease.	1893 10 mths.	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898	TOTAL
Small Pox	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
Scarlet Fever	7	33	25	22	43	9	139
Diphtheria	9	39	11	10	30	26	132
Croup (membranous) ..	..	3	..	..	2	2	7
Typhoid Fever	17	11	5	6	6	2	47
Puerperal Fever ..	1	..	..	1	..	1	3
Erysipelas	41	19	27	22	25	21	155
	75	105	75	62	106	61	484

Disease.	Poole	Parkstone	Longfleet	Ham-worthy	TOTAL
Small Pox	..	..	..	1	1
Scarlet Fever	65	42	28	4	139
Diphtheria	47	63	20	2	132
Croup (membranous) ..	2	2	3	..	7
Typhoid Fever	31	9	5	2	47
Puerperal Fever ..	1	2	..	..	3
Erysipelas	89	35	30	1	155
	235	153	86	10	484

Scarlet Fever. As will be seen by reference to the first table that there was no epidemic of this disease, the cases that occurred being isolated cases occurring at intervals. No death occurred.

Diphtheria. Twenty-one of the twenty-six cases of this disease occurred during the six months, March to September. Four cases proved fatal, including one which was removed outside the district.

Membranous Croup. Two cases occurred, one in February, the other in July. Both proved fatal.

Typhoid Fever. Two cases were notified, one in June, the other in September. Both recovered.

Puerperal Fever. One case was notified in February. The patient had been attended in her confinement by a midwife. I forbade, both verbally and in writing, this midwife from attending any other patient for at least a month.

Erysipelas. April and May were the only two months during which no case of this disease was notified. Of the twenty-one cases notified only one proved fatal.

From the foregoing it will be seen that there was no real epidemic of any kind during the year. The Zymotic sick and death rates being very low.

Fever Hospital. Eight patients were admitted during the year. The admissions were as follows :—

	Sex.	Disease.	Admitted.	Discharged.
1.	Female.	Scarlet Fever.	January 31st.	February 26th.
2.	Male.	Diphtheria.	March 14th.	March 9th.
3.	Female.	Diphtheria.	May 18th.	June 4th.
4.	Female.	Scarlet Fever.	July 22nd.	September 9th.
5.	Male.	Diphtheria.	September 12th.	October 8th.
6.	Female.	Diphtheria.	September 12th.	October 8th.
7.	Female.	Diphtheria.	September 28th.	October 15th.
8.	Female.	Scarlet Fever.	November 21st.	December 10th.

There was no Death in the Fever Hospital.

I will now proceed to review the sanitary work done during the year.

Scavenging, Flushing, &c. The scavenging and flushing of the streets, and the removal of the night soil, have been regularly and satisfactory carried out.

Water Supply. The Poole Water Works Company's supply during the past year has been the same, as regards quantity and quality as in previous years. Four samples from wells in out-lying-parts of the District were submitted to me for analysis, two proved good and two proved to be polluted with sewerage; in one of the latter the Poole Water Works Company's supply was laid on, in the other the polluting cause is being removed. The four cottages at Tatnam mentioned in my 1897 report have had the Poole Water Works Company's supply laid on. So also have some of the dairy farms mentioned in the same report.

Slaughter-houses. These were inspected half-yearly by myself and the Inspector of Nuisances. At the April inspection nine were visited and were noted as follows:—Very good, two; good, six; fair, 1. At the October inspection eight were visited and noted as follows:—Very good, 2; good, 4; fair, 1; locked, 1.

Bake-houses. These were inspected half-yearly by myself and the Inspector of Nuisances. At the April inspection thirty-eight were visited and noted as follows:—Very good, 5; good, 23; fair, 3; dirty, 5; locked, 2. At the October inspection thirty-nine were visited and noted as follows:—Very good, 4; good, 21; fair, 10; dirty, 0; locked, etc., 4.

Factories and Workshops. These were inspected at intervals during the year by the Inspector of Nuisances, and were found generally to be in good condition.

Dairies and Cowsheds. There were visited half-yearly by myself and the Inspector of Nuisances. At the May inspection, twenty-four were visited and were found in the following condition:—Good, 14; fair, 3; dirty, 7. At the November inspection twenty-nine were visited and were found as follows:—Good, 12; fair, 9; dirty, 7; closed, 1. Three (two in Longfleet and one in Parkstone) were marked dirty at each inspection. With one exception the Parkstone dairies were in a dirty condition when inspected in November. There is, however, in many instances a decided improvement in the general condition of cowsheds. The special report presented in November, 1897, has been considered, and

it has been decided (*a*), that the amount of necessary cubic space for each cow shall be 800 cubic feet for cowsheds in the parish of St. James', Poole, and 700 cubic feet for cowsheds outside this parish. (*b*) That the Poole Water Works Company's water supply must be laid on to several cowsheds where the supply was deficient or dangerous.

Premises in an Unsanitary Condition, &c. The Inspector of Nuisances has visited several premises in an unsanitary condition, besides all houses in which infectious diseases were notified as occurring, and gave the necessary directions for cleaning, &c. My personal inspection was made in all cases where requested by the Inspector.

Unsound Food. In one instance only was it necessary to condemn food as unfit, viz :—A consignment consisting of 15 small boxes of bloaters and three large boxes of sprats desposited at the L. & S.W.R. goods shed yard on November 19th.

Disinfection. The disinfection of premises where infectious diseases were notified as having occurred was thoroughly carried out by the Inspector of Nuisances and his assistants. During the summer the courts and alleys in the town were cleansed and white-washed as in previous years.

Nuisances. These were dealt with ordinarily by the Inspector to whom all complaints were referred for enquiry, &c. Where necessary he appealed to me for advice and instructions.

Sewerage Scheme. Contract No. 4 is now practically completed. The Districts now sewered (with the exceptions of portions of the Sandecotes, Court Hill and Heckford Park Estates), are Branksome Park, Parkstone and Upper Longfleet. Most of the sewers have been ready for use for some time past, but up to the present only abcut 260 houses have been connected with the sewers, this number is only about a quarter of the houses which abut on the roads sewered. Some immediate steps should be taken to compel owners of property to connect with the system and so prevent the ground around the existing cesspools (which in many cases are in close proximity to the dwelling house) becoming saturated with sewage.

In conformity with the requirements of the Local Government Board, I have, as in previous years, made frequent inspections of the various parts of the district.

I have again to acknowledge the very valuable and careful assistance rendered me by the Inspector of Nuisances, Mr. Richard Smith, jun., who carries out the duties of his office with courtesy, zeal, and thoroughness.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

HERBERT A. LAWTON, M.D., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Poole, January 18th, 1899.

Table of Population, Births, and of new cases of Infectious Sickness coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the year 1898, in the Poole Urban District; classified according to Diseases, Ages and Localities.

	Population at all Ages.		Registered Births.
	Last Census	Estimated to middle of 1898.	
Poole, Borough of ...	15438	18214	526

New Cases of Sickness in each Locality coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.								No. of such cases removed from their home in the several localities for treatment in Isolation Hospital.	
	Aged under 5 or over 5.	Scarlatina	Diphtheria	Membranous Croup	Enteric or Typhoid Fever	Puerperal Fever	Erysipelas	Scarlatina	Diphtheria
Poole, Borough of	Under 5.....	...	4	2	...	...	2	...	...
	5 upwards.....	9	22	...	2	1	19	3	5

Table of DEATHS during the year 1898 in the Poole Urban District, classified according to Diseases, Ages and Localities.

Mortality from all causes at subjoined Ages.

	At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards.
Poole, Borough of	278	76	29	8	13	83	69

Mortality from subjoined causes, distinguishing Deaths of Children under Five Years of Age.

	Diphtheria	Membranous Croup.	Erysipelas	Whooping Cough	Diarrhœa and Dysentery	Phthisis	Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Pleurisy	Heart Disease	Injuries	All other Diseases	Total
Under 5.....	2	2	1	2	6	5	18	1	2	66	105
5 upwards.....	1	...	...	...	...	19	25	13	8	107	173

To the Poole Port Sanitary Authority.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my report as Port Medical Officer of Health for the year ending December 31st, 1898, and in so doing have again much pleasure in being able to give a very satisfactory account of the healthy condition of the seamen on board of the vessels which have entered and left the Port of Poole during the year.

No case of Infectious Disease has been either certified or notified.

The same Inspection of Vessels by the Harbour Authorities, Board of Trade and Customs Officials, have been made as in previous years.

Inspections. The number of vessels inspected by the Sanitary Officials was 113: of this number 87 (*i.e.*, 75 British and 12 Foreign) were classed as "good;" 22 (*i.e.*, 21 British and 1 Foreign) were classed as "fair;" while 4 (all British) were classed as "dirty." Those classed as dirty were cleansed without notices being served.

Deaths. Three deaths were registered as having occurred within the Port of Poole, viz.:—1.—Male, aged 17 years, accidental drowning, June 9th. 2.—Male, aged 43 years, accidental drowning, July 15th. 3.—Male, aged 42 years, found drowned, September 17th.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

HERBERT A. LAWTON, M.D., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Poole, January 13th, 1899.